Money in lieu of SNP in Anganwadi Centres

*448. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to provide money in lieu of Special Nutrition Programme (SNP) in Anganwadi Centres;

(b) whether Government have asked the Anganwadi Workers to open bank accounts alongwith President/Secretary of Mothers' Committee;

(c) whether the new scheme has already been implemented in a few States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Some States have decentralized procurement and distribution of supplementary nutrition under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme through local committee constituted at the village level. Under the system, funds for supplementary nutrition are transferred to the Bank account of Anganwadi Centres, operated jointly by Anganwadi Worker/members of Mothers' Committee etc.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

Reduction in allocations for universities

*449. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission (UGC) has reduced allocations for universities with a high percentage of minority students;

(b) whether it is a fact that UGC has not adopted a fair approach towards religious minorities;

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure that the UGC functions well;

(d) whether only one or two castes are benefiting from all fund allocations of UGC in the year 2005-06 and the current year; and

(e) the steps proposed to reduce this tilt of UGC?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The University Grants Commission (UGC) which is a statutory body established for the co-ordination and maintenance of standards of higher education, provides financial assistance to all eligible institutions on the basis of norms laid down by the Commission under each of its schemes. The release of funds by the Commission also depends on utilization of previous releases as well as feasibility of proposals forwarded by the institutions. No instance of discrimination against the religious minorities by UGC, has come to the notice of the Government.

The UGC is also implementing schemes for benefiting students from the minority communities. A Minority Cell has also been established in the UGC for overseeing schemes of the Commission, which are intended to benefit the minorities.

Attendance of minority children in schools

*450. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the attendance figures of children from the minority community in primary and upper primary classes in different States;

(b) whether it is at par with other communities; and

(c) if not, the efforts are being made to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) A national sample study to track student attendance at primary and upper primary levels in 20 major States and Delhi had been commissioned by the Government of India. Reports from 9 States received so far show that the attendance rate of the muslim children at primary and upper primary levels of schooling, are close to the overall attendance rates of all students. Related data is placed at the enclosed Statement (*See* below).